



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



NEW HAMPSHIRE – IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301

Meeting Minutes

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Kinsman Conference Room
September 19, 2025
2:00 PM

State Senators

Hon. Regina Birdsell
Hon. Sharon Carson

State Representatives

Hon. Dennis Malloy
Hon. Sherman Packard

Secretary of State

Hon. Steve Shurtleff

Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

Taylor Caswell
Jeanie Forrester

Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire

Mike Skelton

University System of New Hampshire

Michele Dillon

Public Members

Michael Barrett
*Granite State District
Export Council*

Hon. Jeb Bradley

Andrea Hechavarria
*NH Life Sciences
Association*

Darragh Madden
Irish Electric

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chair Sharon Carson.

Present: Chair Sen. Carson, Sen. Birdsell, Rep. Malloy, Jeb Bradley, Adam Boltik (for Commissioner Caswell), Jeanie Forrester, Julie Demers, Darragh Madden, Michele Dillon, Andrea Hechavarria (virtual).

Sen. Birdsell made a motion to accept the minutes of June 20, seconded by Jeb Bradley, motion carried.

Sen. Carson gave an overview of her visit to Ireland, noting her visit was focused on legislative activities. She spent a few days in Dublin, with productive conversations with Sen. Daly, and visiting the Senate Chambers. Traveled to Northern Ireland, visiting Stormont (the Parliament buildings in Northern Ireland), and had an opportunity to talk to members of the leading parties. Attended the Orange marches (parades by members of the Orange Order and other Protestant fraternal societies), and visited the Free Derry Museum, learning about the cultural aspects of Ireland.

Met with Derry business community near Peace Bridge in downtown, spent time at the Guild Hall, noting there is an interest in strengthening ties between New Hampshire and Derry. Strong interest in making connections with University of Ulster and UNH. Enjoyed several site visits including Dunloose Castle and the Giants Causeway, Bushmills Distillery, Lienster House, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and dinner at an Irish pub. Housing and immigration are issues in Ireland, effecting the economy and quality of life. Residential neighborhoods worried about security and safety.

Sen. Birdsell presented information from her visit to Ireland. Adam Boltik, International Trade Resource Manager of BEA's Office of International Commerce, scheduled several visits and they were interesting and productive (see attached document). Visits included Bord Bia and University College Dublin, See also link to [FAST-IP - NovaUCD](#)

Suggested that Commissioner Jasper get connected with Bord Bia to explore opportunities (they export Emerald Ice Cream to NH). Other ideas for collaboration include seeing if specialty stores would be interested in carrying products; expand flights from NH to Ireland with Ryan Air; connecting with ARMI to learn about projects they are working on.

Other visits included Jameson Distillery, Storemont, Titanic museum, and lunch with the Mayor; lunch at Google, Office of Foreign Affairs, tour of House and Senate then a reception at City Hall.

Hoping to make connections with the universities and students;
Bring more students here and a connection w/University of Ulster in Northern Ireland.

Adam Boltik advised members that he recently met the person who organized the Lowell Irish Festival there is interest in organizing an event like this in NH. Adam will invited the organizer, Peter Lally from Spectacle Live, to attend the next meeting of the Council.

Next Meeting Nov 21

Sen. Birdsell made a motion to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.